



Federal Bureau of Investigation

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Release

SUBJECT: De Marigny, Alfred M.F.

6-29-, 1959

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ND 97-3600-4 pg 139

FC
Strickland
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Nassau, Bahamas, September 11, 1944

Reported Indictment by New York Federal Grand Jury
of Three Nassauvians and One American Resident of
Nassau as Narcotics Smugglers.

1/ I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of an article
which appeared on page 1 of the MIAMI HERALD of September 7,
1944 regarding the indictment of 17 persons as narcotics smug-
glers. Practically the same article appeared on September 7 in
the NASSAU DAILY TRIBUNE, but the names of the four Nassau men
were not published.

One of these four Nassau names published in the MIAMI
HERALD is Dr. John W. Cleary, oculist. Dr. Cleary is an Ameri-
can citizen born at Philadelphia, Pa., on April 1, 1895. He
came to Nassau on January 15, 1935 and has resided here ever
since. He bought the practice of Dr. Michael Miles Rosenthal,
who was also an American citizen registered for the first time
on December 3, 1931 (approved by the Department on February 26,
1932). Dr. Cleary has never been registered at this office and
has never received an American passport. He has not left Nassau
since the regulations requiring all persons entering the United
States to be in possession of valid passports came into effect.
His application for a passport was executed at this office on
September 7, 1944 and has been forwarded to the Department.

Dr. Cleary called at this office on September 9, 1944 and
declared that he had never been connected in any way with the
traffic in narcotics. He requested that his sworn statement,
which is enclosed, be transmitted to the Department and he also
requested that a representative of the Department of Justice be
sent to Nassau for the purpose of investigating any alleged con-
nection of his with narcotics traffic.

checked for double entry 730 class 1-15-59

Dr.

- 2 -

Dr. Cleary's wife, Mrs. Pearl ~~Cleary~~, has been employed as temporary clerk at this office since July 17, 1944.

Respectfully yours,

Patrick Mallon
American Consul

Enclosures:

1. Copy of article in MIAMI HERALD
of September 7, 1944.
2. Sworn statement by John W. Cleary

Hectograph to Department
311.4
PM/cj

Enclosure in ... is detached ... 364 From Patrick Mallon, American Consul at Nassau, Bahamas, dated September 11, 1944 on the subject: Reported indictment by New York Federal Grand Jury of Three Nassauvians and One American Resident of Nassau as Narcotics Smugglers.

17 INDICTED AS NARCOTICS SMUGGLERS

Miamian Tells Story of Nassau-N.Y. Plot
by Jeanne Bellamy, Herald Staff Writer

A story of the smuggling of \$75,000 worth of morphine from Nassau to New York just before Pearl Harbor unfolded here Wednesday following announcement of 17 indictments by a New York federal grand jury.

The indictments named four Nassauvians, 11 New Yorkers, a West Palm Beach negro on charges of conspiracy to violate the federal narcotics laws.

Also named was a Bertram Row of West Palm Beach and Nassau, master of a British fish boat. Arrested in West Palm Beach Wednesday, Row will be arraigned before a federal commissioner there today before being taken to New York for trial.

An agent attached to the Miami office of the narcotics bureau said the New York group contained men regarded as the major narcotics traffic violators of that area, including Charles Alberto, listed as the No. 1 violator.

The four Nassau men were listed as Basil H. McKinney, who holds the distinction of having been the youngest man ever to sit in a British parliament anywhere in the world; Harcourt "Rusty" Bethel, a Bahamas government employee; Dr. John W. Cleary, oculist, and Milton Cleary.

McKinney, scion of an old Nassau family, was elected before his 21st birthday as representative of Andros island in the Bahamas house of assembly. He was chairman of the Board of Agriculture last year.

"Rusty" Bethel was in the Bahamas communications department at the time of the alleged offenses, according to the narcotics agent. More recently Bethel has been in the immigration office at Nassau.

The Miami narcotics agent said the indictments were based on transportation of \$75,000 worth of morphine by boat from Nassau to points off the coast of Palm Beach and Broward counties in three trips from the fall of 1940 to the fall of 1941. All the narcotics figuring in the case had been transported to Nassau from Haiti, he said.

Federal reports showed that John Kenneth Black, former city fireman at West Palm Beach, testified as a government witness before the grand jury which returned the indictments.

FLORIDIAN RAN BOAT

The agent said New York members of the ring of Italian descent, contacted Black at the West Palm Beach fire station and arranged for him to become the navigator of a cruiser named the "Lucy A." which allegedly made two of the dope-smuggling trips.

New York members of the ring, the agent said, made several trips here, staying in Miami hotels and making trips to Nassau by plane as well as by boat.

Shipping restrictions invoked after the United States entered the war halted the operations, according to the agent.

He said testimony taken during the long investigation mentioned several times, in connection with transportation of the morphine from Haiti to Nassau, the name of Alfred De Marigny, who was acquitted last year of a

charge

charge of murdering his multi-millionaire father-in-law, Sir Harry Oakes. There was no direct evidence linking de Marigny with the alleged dope ring, however, the agent added.

The agent said the investigation showed McKinney was "the kingpin of the traffic in Nassau, and agreed to furnish the narcotics in any quantity at \$75 an ounce, FOB Nassau."

Another vessel, bought in Tampa, supplanted the "Lucy A" after the first two trips, with Black continuing as navigator. Motorboats from the Florida coast met the larger vessels offshore, it was explained.

The agent said all the dope involved was taken to New York for sale, and none of it circulated in the Miami area, so far as was known.

In addition to Alberic and the four Nassauians, those named in the indictments announced Wednesday were Steve ~~Armone~~, Eugene ~~Ira-~~
~~magline~~, Ralph ~~Carbone~~ of Newark, N.J.; Charles ~~Salerno~~, also known
as "Four Cents"; Joe "Kato" ~~Valucci~~, Joseph "The Eye" ~~Tocco~~, Nick
"Gypolo" ~~Felerno~~, Charles ~~Tonko~~ of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Joseph ~~Tonko~~ of
Brooklyn, N.Y., now in the Army; a Brooklyn man known only as
"Scottie", and a West Palm Beach negro known as "Willie".

The Nassauians indicted would be subject to arrest only if they should visit the United States.

- MIAMI FLORIDA HERALD
September 7, 1944

1944, at Nassau, Bahamas, dated September 11, 1944 on the subject: Reported Indictment by New York Federal Grand Jury of Three Nassau-
vians and One American Resident of Nassau as Narcotics Smugglers.

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BAHAMAS ISLANDS)
ISLAND OF NEW PROVIDENCE)
CITY OF NASSAU) SS
CONSULATE OF THE UNITED)
STATES OF AMERICA)

Before me, Patrick Mallon, Consul of the United States of America, in and for Nassau, Bahamas, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared John W. Cleary, who, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows: (1) My name is John W. Cleary and I reside at Village Road, Nassau, Bahamas; and (2) I wish to make the following statements in defense concerning the fact that my name appeared in an article in the MIAMI HERALD of September 7, 1944 in connection with narcotics smuggling from the Bahamas. I have never had any dealings or transactions of any nature with any of the persons mentioned in the article or with any other persons, either local or foreign, during my past ten years residence in the Bahamas or the 39 previous years of my life in connection with illicit traffic in narcotics. I am willing to submit for questioning and will be available at any time to the local authorities or to any United States investigators.

John W. Cleary

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of September 1944.

Patrick Mallon
Consul of the United States
of America

Service no. 3217
Fee \$2.00 - 10/-